

Highway, and maintain hiking trails. Gorge Appreciation Week is an excellent way of involving citizens in the guardianship of the natural value of their community.

None of this would be possible without the 2,000 members of Friends of the Columbia Gorge from across the country. Through the dedication of these individuals to the preservation of the area, the Gorge continues to be a wonderful place to live and work, as well as a unique place for visitors.

The Gorge holds a special place in both our heritage and our future on a national, regional, and local level. I want to be a strong voice for those, such as the Friends, who support continuing the mission of protecting and enhancing this area. It is a national recreation destination and source of enjoyment and scenic beauty to the many who live, work, and vacation there.

TRIBUTE TO THE STUDENTS OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. MID- DLE SCHOOL

HON. GEORGE P. RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 19, 1997

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the students of Martin Luther King, Jr. Middle School in Madera, CA for their awareness and concern for the importance of soil for America's farmers. These students exemplify a care for the community and a dedication to hard work.

The students of Martin Luther King, Jr. Middle School promoted awareness of soil in 1993 through student research and letters to soil scientists in all 50 States. The students received a tremendous response from all over the country about many diverse soils, including information and samples. The students began to initiate conversations with—and enlisted the help of—a number of soil scientists as they looked at the possibilities of writing a solution to the problem of soil awareness.

The title of the interdisciplinary project that was created is "Proposing an Official State Soil—Preserving a Legacy to Future Generations." The program focuses on California soil and the Martin Luther King, Jr. Middle School student body, which studied the processes of promoting legislation, the historical events that have taken place on and the practical uses of California soil.

Students researched the history and origin of soil, worked on statistics utilizing various soil characteristics, and wrote a resolution known as Senate Bill Number 389, which proposed an adoption of the San Joaquin Series Soil as the Official State Soil. On April 17, 1997, the Senate passed SB-389.

The support and guidance of Ron Williams, principal of Martin Luther King, Jr. Middle School, and Alex Lehman, were instrumental in the success of the program. Additional support was provided by additional faculty at Martin Luther King, Jr. Middle School, including: Nadia Samarin; Mike Dawson; Teresa Varlas; and Bill Lutjens.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor that I pay tribute to the students of Martin Luther King, Jr. Middle School. Their commitment to raising soil awareness is commendable to say the least. I ask my colleagues to join me in wish-

ing the students of Martin Luther King, Jr. Middle School best wishes for future success.

A TRIBUTE TO MARIO DE LOS COBOS

HON. BRAD SHERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 19, 1997

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mario de los Cobos for his dedicated service to the Ventura County Economic Development Association [VCEDA] and for his personal and civic leadership in our community.

VCEDA is a nonprofit organization dedicated to providing a link between the private and public sector. They serve our community by focusing on any and all issues which may affect our region from education to the environment. As president of VCEDA, Mario's main contribution was his work with the Economic Development Collaborative, where he was instrumental in assuring that the private sector would have a voice in the use of defense conversion grants and earthquake disaster relief. His dedication to building bridges between the private and public sectors is extraordinary.

Mario has also served as a reserve police officer for 7 years. His desire and work toward making the community a better and safer place to live is greatly appreciated. But most outstanding is Mario's commitment to the leadership of our people. He has served on the board of directors for the Ventura County Community Foundation, as chairman of the board of the United Way and as a member of the Governor's task force for Camarillo State Hospital. He has done this all in the name of making life better for as many people as possible in our community. It is for this extraordinary dedication to our community that we honor him here today.

Henry David Thoreau once said that doing good was the only full profession. Mario believes that doing good is not only a profession but a way of life. I join Mario's family, friends, colleagues and the citizens of our community in recognizing Mario de los Cobos for his leadership and community service. It is an honor to represent him and I wish him luck on all future endeavors.

HONORING JUNIOR ACHIEVEMENT OF SOUTH CENTRAL PENN- SYLVANIA ON THEIR 35TH ANNI- VERSARY

HON. WILLIAM F. GOODLING

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 19, 1997

Mr. GOODLING. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to recognize Junior Achievement of south central Pennsylvania on their 35th anniversary. This evening many business leaders, educators, students and families will gather for the 35th Anniversary Celebration of Excellence and Hall of Fame.

Junior Achievement has provided great opportunity to students by helping them learn the basic principles of business and competition,

thereby creating the most skilled and competitive work force ensuring America continues as a leader in the world marketplace. They have fostered partnerships in the community and provided a real link between the classroom and the business community by giving students hands-on experience and the chance to work with professionals.

I am also pleased to honor a close friend, Jacqueline Summers, who has been instrumental in making Junior Achievement the quality organization it is. Jackie is a special person whose hard work and determination ensures excellence in everything she does.

I would like to recognize the chairman of the board, Robert Herzberger. Mr. Herzberger is the executive vice president of York Federal Savings and Loan. His knowledge and expertise has fostered the great success Junior Achievement has had in developing partnerships between business and education.

Mr. Speaker, this year two business and community leaders from Pennsylvania's 19th Congressional District will be inducted into the Hall of Fame. I am pleased to announce that Phillip H. Gladfelter II and Henry D. Schmidt will be the very first inductees. These gentlemen were the founders of Junior Achievement of south central Pennsylvania. Their vision and dedication has enabled thousands of young people to have access to the American dream.

What started out with 300 students in 1961 has grown to serve nearly 9,000 students from grades kindergarten through 12 in south central Pennsylvania. As chairman of the House Committee on Education and the Workforce, I am extremely proud to honor and celebrate this example of excellence. Junior Achievement has been a tremendous success and is well deserving of special recognition.

THE SCHOOL BUS SAFETY ACT OF 1997

HON. JAMES A. TRAFICANT, JR.

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 19, 1997

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, since 1985, 1,478 people have died in school bus-related crashes—an average of 134 fatalities per year. Although school bus related travel is the safest mode of transportation on America's roads today, more can, and should, be done to ensure the safety of this country's most cherished resources—our children. That is why I have introduced legislation that improves on existing technologies and maximizes safety for the 24 million children who ride buses to and from school each day.

My bill directs the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) to set national proficiency standards for school bus drivers. It directs the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration to develop guidelines on the safe transportation in school buses of children under the age of five. It also applies Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations to interstate school bus operations. The bill also requires: a decrease in the flammability of materials used in the construction of the interiors of school buses; the establishment of construction, design, and securement standards for wheelchairs used in the transportation of students in school buses; and that buses be equipped with bumper sensors, wheel guards